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TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
from The Manager and Staff of
THE CHURCH ARMY BOOKSHOP

THE PIONEER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

Rev. John Symons C.A., Derby, W.A.

Rt. Rev. Arthur Malcolm, C.A., Yarrabah, Qld.

Captain Michael Lazarus, C.A., Townsville, Qld.

Sister Carol Tokley, C.A., Aliquippa, U.S.A.

Captain Ken Foley, C.A., Brewarrina, N.S.W.

Captain Evan Cocker, C.A., Port Lincoln, S.A.

Captain Tom Clarke, C.A., Launceston, Tas.

A LONG WAY FROM HOME

CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA
A Society of Evangelists within the Anglican Church

Reg. by Aust. Post
Publication No. NAR1149

NOVEMBER 1987

BORES

In a piece titled "Confessions of a Wild Bore". American writer John Updike says that a healthy adult male bore consumes each year one and a half times his own weight in other people's patience.

Inactivity, apathy, endless routine — all these can cause boredom. Then again, you can be cornered by a bore. Bores are the sort of people who have the ability to talk a lot without really saying anything.

Attempts to bring in one's own opinions and feelings are met with, "Yes, well let me tell you what happened to me . . ."

To some, a preacher talking about bores is akin to a pot calling the kettle black.

If Christian preachers are boring, then it is not the fault of their message. The preacher may have gone stale! If the Gospel doesn't grip him, it won't grip his listeners.

Or it could be the fault of the listeners. They might be so distant from the living God, so caught up in their own affairs, that no supernatural excitement can penetrate.

Christians should never be boring. But sometimes, boredom is in the mind of the beholder.

REV. DAVID REAY
Rector of St. Stephens, Belrose
Chaplain Church Army College of Evangelism

WILLS & BEQUESTS

REMEMBER GOD'S WILL IN YOUR WORK
AND REMEMBER GOD S WORK IN YOUR WILL

The Church Army has been in Australia for over 50 years. Through its Officers, men and women, its ministry has been felt in many parishes. Our vision is to grow and to extend our ministry throughout Australia. You can support this vision by making a special and lasting gift to Church Army through your will.

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When you opened your Pioneer
Did a leaflet fall out?

Did you pick it up, open it and read it?

If you did, you'd notice it tells you quite a lot about Church Army and its work, and ministry of evangelistic outreach.

It also asked for your help to support this vital work.

If you haven't sent us a donation before, or recently, perhaps you are able to now!

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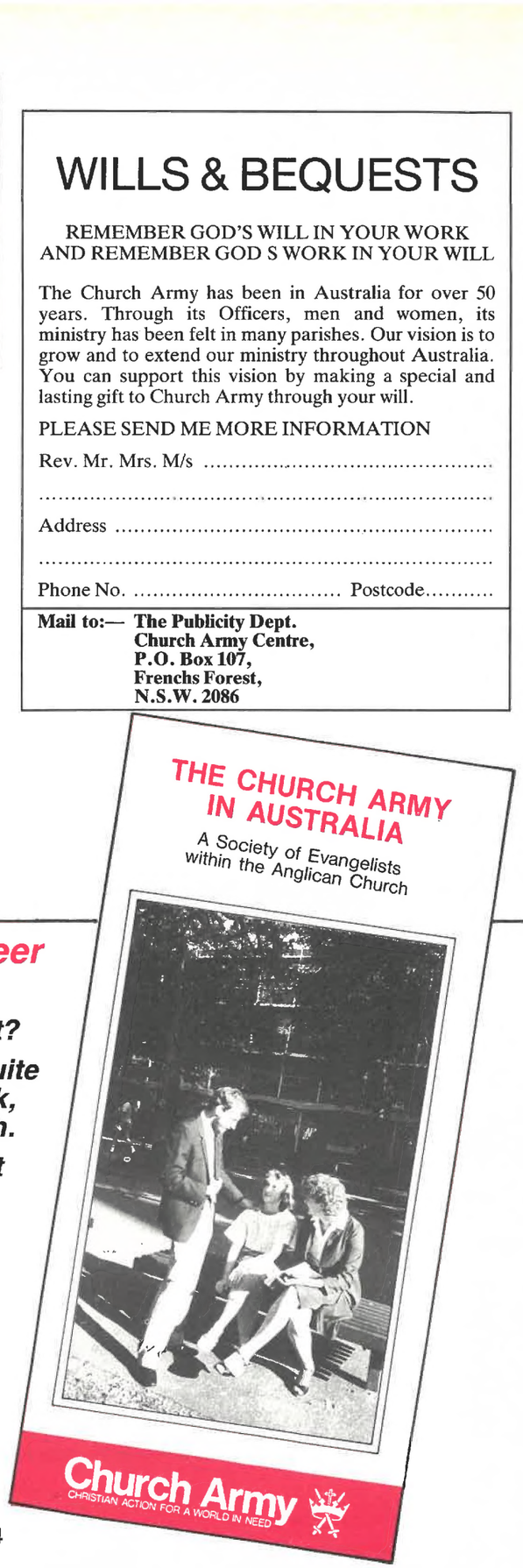

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Captain Ken & Jenny Foley

"BREWARRINA — A TOWN TORN BY RACIAL TENSION AND RIOTING", was how we saw and heard it described on our televisions a short time ago.

Normally Bre' ("Bree") as the locals call it is a small quiet country town off the beaten track. Isolated when it rains, the one sealed road in is below flood level and the other dirt roads immediately become unusable.

Capt. Ken Foley and his wife Jenny, since early this year have made Brewarrina their home town. Capt. Foley is the Minister-in-Charge of the Anglican Parish there. The parish extends 150 kms north, 70 west, 50 east and 70 south. The town population is 1,500. Besides Brewarrina, worship is held at Goodooga (an interdenominational congregation) and at Weilmoringle (time there is also a social occasion with tennis and a barbecue to follow).

It didn't take the Foleys long to settle in. The townspeople were immediately supportive and hospitable. They, Ken and Jenny Foley, have made the rectory into a real home with 2 dogs, Kelly and Midget, and a cat called Horse, together with 'the elephant', Ken's Yamaha 1100cc motorbike.

Ken's office (study) where he spends many hours is very up-date and practical. He's invested in a home computer with printer and a small copying machine. These give scope to Ken and Jenny's artistic and creative abilities. Desktop publishing this way produces highly imaginative and colourful scripture notes, parish newsletters, parish mailings and bible study materials etc.

This first year of ministry has been a busy one for Ken. Parish and hospital visiting has been a high priority. Community involvement came through serving on the Drug and Alcohol Committee and also the Community Youth Support Scheme. A pastoral and outreach task force has been formed within the Church. Scripture is taught in the high school and the primary school.

A firm friendship with 2 young married couples has developed rapidly. "We regard Ken and Jenny as an answer to prayer, says one of the couples. We've found Ken an easy guy to get to know. He's friendly, yet firm, a good teacher, able to build relationships and gently correct attitudes. Jenny is the ideal helpmate for him. One of his more noticeable characteristics is his incredible sense of humour, which enables him to turn a relatively sensible conversation into hopeless fits of laughter. He also thoroughly enjoys food, which he can pack away very easily, with room for more!

All in all, we thank God for both Ken and Jenny, and hope they are with us for a long time!"

Through these couples, 2 home bible study groups have commenced. The one on Tuesday evenings is for people of all ages, men and women (and children). Thursday morning's study, run by Jenny Foley is a women's group. Both groups meet in various houses in the parish.

Ken is supported and encouraged in his ministry by Archdeacon Les Turner of Cobar. Archdeacon Turner, an ex-Church Army Captain, remembers the joys and frustrations of first parish experiences fresh out of Church Army College.

On his appointment to Brewarrina by Bishop Howell Witt, Capt. Foley was told to concentrate on three particular features of his ministry: scriptural teaching, development of worship and lay team ministry.

Ken and Jenny Foley have taken these as opportunities to serve, not as instructions from "The Boss". They've responded to the challenge, serving the Lord and following His will, "Off the Beaten Track".

Desktop Publishing

Bible Study

CHURCH ARMY REACHOUT CONFERENCE

With English Evangelist — J.JOHN

"STRATEGY FOR LOCAL CHURCH EVANGELISM"

Dates: 18th, 19th, 20th March, 1988.

Venue: "Kahilla Christian Conference Centre, Lawson (Blue Mountains).

Cost: $70.00 (Deposit $10.00)

Aim: To train and make people aware of how to plan for an evangelistic Mission. People to be trained to run a mission in their own parish,and the strategy involved in preparation and follow-up.

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FRENCHS FOREST 2086.

J.JOHN

J.JOHN — When I was in Bathurst Diocese and working in Parish I had a call from the Bishop to be a taxi service for J.John, the English Evangelist. The Bishop had organised this Evangelist to "do" some pretty rough places e.g. High Schools with 1,000 students and the Bar at the Teachers College in Bathurst. I thought this bloke better be good or he will be barbecued on the spot! When I picked up J.John he was not what I expected, he was small and almost reserved. I thought at the local high school — he would be coliseum material. But as soon as he was in front of people it was obvious to all that he has a special gift from God. He kept the high school students spellbound and challenged them in a very forceful way.

He of course is well known in England, and in Australia is being extensively used. He has an encouraging nature but had a deadly realistic drive that regards to Evangelism — "He means business". Many Evangelists of his calibre often suffer from not being sensitive to local situations but it has been my experience that he can very clearly give definite guidance and instruction. He is constantly reminding people that it needs about 3 years to prepare for Mission; this is with prayer and the attitude for others in encouraging people to Mission.

He certainly shook me up. The aim of this conference is to encourage lay leaders to bring 2 or 3 people from their parish so as to motivate and plan for mission in their own congregation and to provide an evangelistic vision for the parish.

CAPT. BRUCE GEEVES

ON COURSE?

We'd just finished Christmas dinner and the order had been given to put the ship back on its original course. Pitching and rolling in a crazy corkscrew motion it was as though we had entered a new world. We all sat there with full stomachs clinging to our chairs or the edge of the table which was still laden with empty plates and the remains of the dinner just eaten.

Minutes later the ship seemed to go airborne twisting like a bucking bronco. Down it came, crashing into the trough of a wave. The table was torn from its fastenings, chairs wrenched free from their positions spilled their occupants onto the floor. We rolled among the debris.

It was Christmas Day 1953 and I was a very young and green junior officer serving in the Merchant Navy on an old decrepit world war II liberty ship. Midwinter in the North Atlantic in a storm sees it as its worst. I was a long, long way from home and missing it badly.

In this issue of the Pioneer I've tried to bring to you our officers who are serving "A Long Way From Home". Sharing with you the joys and difficulties of their ministry. I can hear them protesting now when I mention difficulties. I can see them pointing towards their brother and sister missionaries serving in Africa, or South America and other parts of the world.

Yet in a real sense Church Army officers are missionaries, bringing the reality of Jesus Christ to many throughout Australia. They work in ministry in 6 states, in 12 Anglican Dioceses.

For the past 18 months or so it has been my privilege to be the Church Army Publicity Officer. Inadequately I feel, I've tried to tell you what's happening in frontline evangelism. To take you to our officers and share with you their ministry.

As we approach this coming Christmas I ask for your continuing support. Please pray for the ongoing work of the Church Army. If you have not yet responded to Bishop Witt's appeal letter asking you to support us financially, I ask you to do so. The next few months of the year are always difficult.

I ask confidently knowing that he who controls our lives will motivate you to respond. For he is the God who keeps us on course and no matter how stormy life is he will see us through if we put our trust in him.

Thank you for your support and encouragement in 1987.

I look forward to sharing with you in the Bicentenary year of 1988. Wishing you all an early, happy and holy Christmas.

WAL SPENCER
Publicity & Development

OPERATION STAMPEDE

"Lets go for 5,000 stamps in 15 weeks," said John Mills, Branch Governor of the St. Mark's C.E.B.S., Avalon N.S.W. John was challenging his 16 C.E.B.S. boys to save used postage stamps for the Church Army.

Organised as always, John had the boys approach parishioners with large collecting envelopes addressed for return to the individual boys involved in "Operation Stampede" as the fundraising scheme had been called. Some boys approached local business people which proved to be a bonanza! This avenue produced a veritable blizzard of stamps.

"We're confident of reaching the target by the deadline, late November," said John Mills," and glad to help funding the Evangelistic outreach of the Church Army".

Daniel Remon, St. Marks C.E.B.S., Avalon

1,033, 1,034, 1,03? PHEW!

"NORTH, SOUTH, & WEST!!"

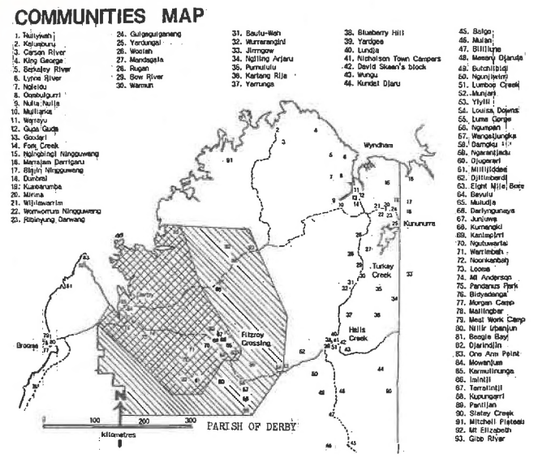
Rt. Rev. Arthur Malcolm, C.A.
Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of
North Queensland to the Aboriginal people.

Captain Michael Lazarus, C.A.
Parish Evangelist
Heatley (Townsville) North Queensland

Captain Evan Cocker, C.A.
Parish Evangelist
Port Lincoln, South Australia.

Sister Carol Tokley, C.A.
(on leave of absence)
with the community of Celebration,
Aliquipa, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Watch out for full feature articles on these Officers in the Pioneer next year!



TOO OLD?

"God's voice was very clear, heard not only by me, but also by my wife Dianne," says Rev. Capt. John Symons, C.A. "We both felt God was calling me to fulltime ministry. I thought, how Lord? — when? — am I too old?"

Capt. Kevin Cullen C.A. was the preacher at that service in Wollongong at which John Symons heard God calling, and it was to the Church Army he went in answer to it.

At 37 John was older than the average Church Army student. Married to Dianne they had a family of four boys, another was born during the two years at the Church Army College. A fitter and turner by trade made "going back to school" hard.

After commissioning in 1980 John's first appointment was at Middlemount, a mining town in Queensland. Two years later he moved to Claymore a new growth area in the outer western suburbs of Sydney. Serving for 3 years, the 2nd of 3 Church Army Officers to have ministry there.

Capt. Symons then felt led to go to West Australia. For almost a year he worked part time in the Anglican Parish of St. Marks, Armadale (Perth).

This year he moved to the North West with his family.

Down Town Derby

The Symons Family
Back Row: L. to R. Christopher, Martin, Paul
Front Row: Craig, Dianne, John, Aaron

Paul 15, Craig 13, Christopher 11 and Aaron 7 lead an active life, they have part time jobs for pocket money. Martin 17, the eldest son stayed in Perth to learn a trade. Dianne works at the local hospital and is also studying for an accountancy qualification. She is also taking guitar lessons.

John is the Rector of St. Pauls, Derby, Diocese of North west Australia.

The Parish of Derby is a co-operative Anglican/Uniting Parish and John's ministry is supported by B.C.A. The Parish is 147,000 sq. kilometres. The township consists of mainly Government employed people and their families, with mining activities and large cattle stations in much of the rest of it. Tourism is also booming. A Parish of this size and complexity means many hours of flying to reach outlying areas. Places like Koolan Island where B.H.P. have a mining operation and a ship loading facility for iron ore, where 800 people live and work, or on one of the many large cattle stations in the Kimberly region, each one covering thousands of hectares.

The first Parish family camp was a real camp out in the bush at a place called, Poulton Ponds, 30ks from Derby. Nine families attended, 33 people in all.

The teaching theme for the weekend was aptly enough, "Water". They were camped by the river.

At one session, following the Lord's example, Parishoners washed each others feet at the river, hesitantly at first. "A moving and learning experience" was how one person described it.

With all that water around, the children's programme was Noah, with colourful drawings and demonstrations of arks and animals. Saturday Night was spent around the campfire singing songs, reading Australian Psalms, a time of prayer, finishing off with supper and a good old fashioned chin wag. One woman was heard to say, "this is the most my husband has ever taken part in anything". Ministry in the bush is simple and direct.

On July 20th John Symons was ordained Deacon at his Parish Church, St. Paul's Derby. Later in the year, September 29th, he was priested by the Bishop of North West Australia, the Rt. Rev. Gerald Muston. As John said in a recent newsletter. "Much has happened in our lives this year and we have a lot to thank the Lord for!".

As always he signed off, Your Family in Christ. John, Dianne, Martin, Paul, Craig, Christopher and Aaron.